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FROM THE COEUR D'ALENE PRESS

Lakes classroom remodel approved

Posted: Monday, Oct 06, 2008 - 10:57:10 pm PDT

By MAUREEN DOLAN

Staff writer

District will spend \$23,000 on prototype which could shape school's future look

COEUR d'ALENE -- After years of levy campaigns and planning discussions about the fate of Lakes Middle School, there is going to be some remodeling done there.

Just a bit. But it could lead to a whole lot more.

At Monday's board meeting District 271 trustees unanimously agreed to accept a Long Range Planning Committee recommendation to spend \$23,000 to remodel one of the middle school's 600-square-foot classrooms.

"Previous remodeling plans and new construction have all centered around 900-square-foot classrooms, but due to the cost of this type of construction we need to look at other alternatives and this is a good way to prototype the alternatives," said district finance director Steve Briggs.

Trustees authorized district maintenance director Bryan Martin to move forward with a plan to redesign one classroom with a focus on space maximization.

If the redesigned room works for teachers, it will be a model for renovation of all 40 of Lakes Middle School's classrooms.

"When we sat down with the school, the teachers were all on the same page. They said the biggest issue out here is the classrooms, so fix our classrooms and we'll go from there," Martin said.

The work will be done by "qualified and appropriately licensed" district staff so the price is based on materials alone.

The job includes installation of a new heating, ventilation and air conditioning system for the room, electrical upgrades, ceiling work, cabinets, light fixtures, plumbing, asbestos removal if necessary, accommodations for technology, paint, doors, windows and floor coverings.

Martin said the redesigned room will be far more energy efficient than the current classrooms.

The maximum expenditure authorized by trustees is \$23,000 plus the time of district maintenance personnel.

"We'll have to be really careful and cognizant going forward in terms of identifying the costs, but we believe this is a good first step. It gives us a model because one of the questions that needs to be answered is the efficiency and effectiveness of the 600-square-foot classroom," Briggs said.

The funds will come from \$5.1 million the district has set aside for use at Lakes. Those funds include \$4.5 million previously approved by voters in 2002 for use at Lakes plus interest.

The school has been at the center of facilities planning discussions in the district since then when voters approved that levy that included \$7.7 million for renovations at the middle school.

Some of the 2002 levy funds designated for Lakes were used on other projects that came in over budget at the time leaving the district short of cash to do anything at the middle school.

Voters subsequently twice rejected multi-million dollar levy proposals that would have raised the additional capital needed to build a new school.

Martin said after the classrooms are completed, they will look at other facilities issues at Lakes, identify the priorities and tackle them as the funds allow.

If the prototypical classroom doesn't work for teachers, Martin isn't concerned.

"It will just be the nicest room at Lakes Middle School," Martin said. "I'm not nervous one bit about putting \$23,000 into that room," he said.

Other action taken:

- Trustees approved a \$60 increase in fees for the district's driver's education program. The increase becomes effective Nov. 1 and raises the cost from \$130 to \$190;
- A 25 percent increase in the fees to rent district facilities (gymnasiums and playing fields) was approved. The increase is minimal because the rental fees are relatively low. The increase raises the cost to rent a class 1 gym from \$12 to \$15 and the cost to use a class 1 playing field for 4 hours from \$3 to \$3.75;
- Trustees voted to accept the 2007-08 annual financial audit completed by Magnuson, McHugh & Company, P.A.

FROM THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

No new education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE MOSCOW PULLMAN DAILY NEWS (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

UI pledges money to local airport

University will contribute \$12,500 for 2009 operational expenses, won't help pay for fire flow project

By Hillary Hamm, Daily News staff writer

Posted on: Monday, October 06, 2008

The University of Idaho will provide money to the Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport next year after all.

Airport Manager Robb Parish said he received a letter Friday from UI Vice President of Finance and Administration Lloyd Mues indicating the university would provide \$12,500 for the airport's 2009 operating expenses.

Parish said the letter "made it clear they would not participate in the fire flow," a multimillion-dollar airport board project to increase water flow in case of emergency.

The UI had previously announced its intent to cease funding for the airport and give up its seat on the airport's board of directors. UI administrators alerted Parish last month that being in an interlocal agreement with the airport and providing funding was a liability they couldn't risk, as was UI Real Estate Officer Gerard Billington's participation on the airport board.

Mues said the intention was never to "yank" fund. UI leaders extended an invitation for Parish to request money on an annual basis when they announced their decision to cease participation in the airport board. The board sent a \$20,000 request letter to the UI two weeks ago.

"That's what we said we would do, and we did it," Mues said.

Mues said although the fire flow project is a valuable airport upgrade, "it's not ... the best use of Idaho tax dollars to support a project in another state. We need to put our project money (toward) the things we're liable for."

The UI has been among six entities that provide yearly contributions for operational expenses at the airport, and an interlocal agreement was being outlined regarding which entities would contribute to the fire flow project and how much they would provide. The fire-flow project is slated for 2009.

Washington State University contributes \$18,935 per year for the airport's operational expenses. Moscow and Pullman each pay \$32,013, and the Port of Whitman County and Latah County contribute \$20,750 and \$17,000, respectively.

Parish said he's pleased the UI is at least chipping in. He credits Pullman Mayor Glenn Johnson and Moscow Mayor Nancy Chaney, both members of the airport board, for not giving up and maintaining communication with the UI.

"The UI said they agreed to pay the operational costs ... and to invoice them next year. I really appreciate the university for stepping up and participating," Parish said. "They're showing they're a partner that they value the airport and the community."

Johnson and Chaney "just really tried to stay engaged with the university on the issue. I think that was a very effective thing to do."

Johnson said the roughly \$1.5 million, 420,000-gallon water reservoir project will continue, and money will be found to make up for the lost UI contribution.

"We're proceeding ahead," he said. "We're doing our best. There are a lot of parties involved."

FROM THE LEWISTON TRIBUNE (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

No new education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE IDAHO-PRESS TRIBUNE, NAMPA

No new education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE IDAHO STATESMAN

No new education news stories posted online today.

FROM THE TWIN FALLS TIMES-NEWS

Some UI employees fear hurdles in prez search

MOSCOW, Idaho - Some University of Idaho employees fear the \$270,000 first-year salary for the northern Idaho school's next president is too modest to attract a candidate willing to stay for an extended period.

By comparison, Washington State University President Elson S. Floyd, who oversees a campus just eight miles away, earns \$725,000.

The UI is trying to find a successor to Tim White, who left in June to lead the University of California-Riverside.

White arrived at UI in 2004 after the school endured budget cuts, faculty turnover and a financial scandal from a failed expansion project in Boise.

Robert Dickow, a faculty member in the UI's Lionel Hampton School of Music, said "we have to face the fact that maybe we won't be able to attract and retain a president because we're not competitive."

Information from: The Moscow-Pullman Daily News, <http://www.dnews.com>

A service of the Associated Press(AP)

FROM THE IDAHO STATE JOURNAL (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

School Garden Grant Applications Due By Friday.

BOISE — Grants are now available for Idaho schools that want to build a school garden to help promote nutrition, science and agricultural education. The School Garden Grant applications are due by Oct. 10.

Schools can apply for grants up to \$3,000 to build a fruit and vegetable garden. A total of \$30,000 is available for the upcoming year. Funding for the grant comes from the State Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs team nutrition grant. Any school taking part in the USDA National School Breakfast or Lunch program is eligible.

To obtain a copy of the application, visit www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/. For more information, call 208-332-6818.

Is Salary for UI President High Enough?

Lake City isn't expected to hear the case until the late summer or fall of 2009.

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FROM THE IDAHO FALLS POST REGISTER (PASSWORD REQUIRED)

Pet day

Temple View first-graders bring pets to school
By CLARK CORBIN ccorbin@postregister.com

And we thought recess was cool.

Temple View Elementary School first-graders took their pets to school Wednesday and filled the school's multipurpose room with a furry mix of tails and paws, tongues and claws.

All told, students brought a mix of 20 dogs, cats, gerbils, mice, a bunny rabbit and a bird to the school's first pet show.

First-grader Luke Parsons said the show-and-tell event was a lot of fun "because of the pets, because they get to play with you."

Luke and the rest of the students took a few minutes to visit and learn about caring for each animal.

Louey the miniature dachshund, Corky the parrot, Sadie the poodle/Bichon mix, Snowflake the gerbil and Fat Louie the rabbit all turned out for the big day. Although there was a little barking and yipping mixed with a heavy amount of tail wagging, all of the animals got along with each other and the students. That's a relief, considering the size difference between the pets ranged from Gauge, Nathan Russell's 167-pound Great Dane, to Chip, Zach and Becca Clement's gerbil, who weighed no more than a few ounces.

First-grader Hannah Hawkins brought her pet Courtney in order to show other students that even rats can make a great pet for a loving owner.

"I wanted to show that rats are not scary, that rats are nice," she said.

Although there were plenty of interesting pets around, first-grader Macy Whitehead said the highlight of her day was bringing Louey, her 8-week-old wiener dog, to show off.

"The best is I got to see Louey, because he always misses me when I go to school," Macy said.

At the end of the day, there was only one real complaint.

"Those dogs always are licking me," first-grader Timmy Reed said.

Features writer Clark Corbin can be reached at 542-6761.

Hot tips for kids

The Idaho Falls Fire Department is spreading its fire-safety message for Fire Prevention Week.
By HEATHER WELLS hwells@postregister.com

Local firefighters are on a mission.

As part of Fire Prevention Week this week, they're headed to the schools and opening their fire stations in an effort to teach children about fire dangers and how to stay safe from blazes.

"It's going to keep us busy, and the kids love it," said Jonathan Walker, a division chief for the Idaho Falls Fire Department.

The event is one of the longest-running public education programs nationwide.

Throughout the week, fire officials will visit schools to show kindergartners their fire truck and all it can do. They'll also be armed with activity books and other material used to teach youths safety measures such as the stop, drop and roll maneuver.

It will take a little longer than a week to make sure officials reach the roughly 1,700 kindergartners in the area, Walker said.

The event isn't just for kindergartners, though.

The fire department also plans to hold open houses throughout the week in which children of all ages can learn about fire protection.

Idaho National Laboratory will have a trailer on hand with stage smoke so children can learn how to handle a fire situation if they ever have to face the real deal, Walker said.

"It's really a great way to get to the parents," Walker said.

Here's a look at the open house schedule. All run from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.:

Today: Fire Station No. 4 on Woodruff Avenue.

Wednesday: Fire Station No. 1 on Shoup Avenue.

Thursday: Fire Station No. 5 on Bellin Road.